

Classifying comptroller investigators as peace officers

SB 928 by Armbrister/Carter

- DIGEST:** SB 928 would have classified as peace officers investigators commissioned by the state comptroller of public accounts.
- GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** "This bill authorizes the commissioning of law enforcement officers by the comptroller of public accounts. There is no demonstrated need for the Comptroller's Office to have this power."
- RESPONSE:** Sen. Ken Armbrister, author of SB 928, said the governor's staff must not have explained to the governor that this bill is important due to the magnitude of delinquent taxes owed to the state. This makes it necessary for employees of the chief tax collector to have access to information and be trained in investigatory techniques. Under the bill, employees of the chief tax collector would have been given authority to have access to information, for example FBI and IRS files, that state employees who are not peace officers do not have and that could aid in collecting delinquent taxes, said Sen. Armbrister.
- NOTES:** HB 928 was analyzed in the May 23 *Daily Floor Report*.